REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on May 27, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks. The claims now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

The Applicant appreciates the courtesy extended to the Applicant's representative during an interview on August 29, 2005, wherein the distinctions between the claims and the prior art were discussed in detail.

Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1-29 because of certain informalities. Claims 1-29 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the objection to claims 1-29 is believed to have been rendered moot.

Rejections under §103

Claims 1-2, 11-15, and 17-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Girerd et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,372, hereinafter "Girerd") in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 5,771,280, hereinafter "Johnson").

Girerd discloses, at column 2, lines 19-61 a computer implemented method of determining the location of a remote sensor. In operation, a user accesses a server using a client. The client provides an identification code that serves to uniquely identify a remote sensor. The remote sensor is capable of providing information related to its position. The server then interrogates the remote sensor that is identified based on the identification code. In response, the remote sensor transmits positioning data to the server where it is analyzed to derive the location of the remote sensor. The location so determined is transmitted from the server to the client and is displayed at the client so that the user can identify the location of the remote sensor. As stated by the examiner, Girerd does not expressly disclose the location signature message containing

location information associated with a plurality of different location information services, each location information service providing location information having a different location granularity in relation to the target device.

The examiner has therefore attempted to combine Girerd et al. with Johnson. However, this combination is inappropriate since Girerd relates to a method for a first system (a client) accessing a second system (a server) that, in turn, interrogates a remote sensor using an identification code provided to the client by a user. The remote sensor then transmits its positioning data to the server. Johnson discloses a technique of providing, via a telephone line, location information pertaining to a requestee (in the form of a map) to a requester, by selecting the map from an address book (i.e. a database of maps). In order to properly combine references, there must be some basis or extrinsic factor that prompt one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the references to arrive at the claimed invention. There is no basis or factor to combine the teachings of Girerd and Johnson since Girerd discloses a first system accessing a second system that interrogates a remote sensor and Johnson discloses a technique of providing location information of a requestee to a requester by selecting a map from an address book.

Further, even if one were to theoretically combine the two, the combination would still fail to disclose or suggest claim 1. Girerd fails to teach location information services that provide location information to points along the path as a location request message travels through the location information services to its destination. As each location message arrives at its destination, it contains location information for both the source and the destination, and also location information regarding any node/hop/object/etc encountered along the path to the destination. Objects along the way can access the location information within the location message, as well as add to the location information contained within the location message. Girerd fails to teach location information containing not just granularity related to the location information, but different types of granularity related to the location information. Girerd fails to

teach that location information provided by each of the nodes along the network path from the source to the target can be used to deduce location information of other locations that are neither the source nor the destination.

Further still, the Girerd reference is classified in an International class having a main group and subgroup of 7/185 while Johnson is classified in an international class having a main group and subgroup of 11/00. The two references are not related by subgroup or main group classification numbers, which is further indication that the references should not be combined.

Therefore, since the Girerd reference and the Johnson reference should not be combined, or even if they are combined, fail to disclose or suggest claim 1, claim 1 is believed allowable over them. Claim 14 includes similar language as claim 1 and is believed allowable over Girerd and Johnson. Claims 1-2, 11-15, and 17-29 depend from claims 1 or 14, and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim that is believed allowable.

Further, claim 12 recites a location request message that includes location information from the location information services to nodes in the path from the source to the destination. Girerd fails to teach identifying location information that may be available from location information services to nodes in the network existing on a path between the location requesting device and the target device. Therefore, claim 12 is further believed to be allowable over Girerd.

Further, claim 14 recites detecting a requirement to provide location information, and, in response, creating a location signature message containing location information provided by a plurality of location information services. Girerd fails to teach location information services that provide location information to points along the path as a location request message travels through the location information services to its destination. As stated by the examiner, Girerd does not expressly disclose the location signature message containing location information associated with a plurality of different location information services, each location information service providing location

information having a different location granularity in relation to the target device. Therefore, claim 14 is further believed to be allowable over Girerd.

Further, claim 20 recites obtaining location information relative to the node from each accessible location information service specified in a specification of location information parameters. Girerd teaches GPS positioning using DGPS correction to further pinpoint the location of pseudo-ranges collected by computing the delta time between sending and receiving data. Girerd fails to teach obtaining location information relative to each node and inserting that location information into the location signature message as it passes through each node. Therefore, claim 20 is further believed to be allowable over Girerd.

Claims 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Girerd and Johnson in view of Jones (U.S. Patent No. 6,748,318, hereinafter "Jones").

Jones discloses, at column 2, lines 46-54 a computer implemented method of notifying a user of a delivery truck's arrival in advance of that arrival. In operation, a delivery truck travel is monitored, and a user is given advanced notice of the truck's impending arrival. Jones does not expressly disclose updating the message as it travels from the computer system (the source) to the user (the target device). Jones does not expressly disclose canceling the location request message based on a metric that determines how close the location request message is to the target device, and producing a location signature message that is returned to the location requesting device.

The examiner has therefore attempted to combine Girerd et al. with Johnson and with Jones. However, this combination is inappropriate since Girerd relates to a method for a first system (a client) accessing a second system (a server) that, in turn, interrogates a remote sensor using an identification code provided to the client by a user. The remote sensor then transmits its positioning data to the server. Johnson discloses a technique of providing, via a telephone line, location information pertaining to a requestee (in the form of a map) to a requester, by selecting the map from an address book (i.e. a database of maps).

Jones discloses a method of tracking a delivery truck. In order to properly combine references, there must be some basis or extrinsic factor that prompt one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the references to arrive at the claimed invention. There is no basis or factor to combine the teachings of Girerd and Johnson since Girerd discloses a first system accessing a second system that interrogates a remote sensor and Johnson discloses a technique of providing location information of a requestee to a requester by selecting a map from an address book with the delivery truck of Jones.

Further, even if one were to theoretically combine the three, the combination would still fail to disclose or suggest claims 3-8. Jones fails to teach that nodes along the way from the source to the destination can access the location information within the location message, as well as add to the location information contained within the location message.

Further still, the Girerd reference is classified in an International class having a main group and subgroup of 7/185 while Johnson is classified in an international class having a main group and subgroup of 11/00, and Jones is classified in an international class having a main group and subgroup of 21/30. The three references are not related by subgroup or main group classification numbers, which is further indication that the references should not be combined.

Therefore, since the Girerd reference and the Johnson reference and the Jones reference should not be combined, or even if they are combined, fail to disclose or suggest claim 3, claim 3 is believed allowable over them. Claims 4-8 are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim that is believed allowable.

Further, claim 5 recites setting a time to return value to be less than a total of the propagation distance between the location requesting device and the target, causing nodes in the network (other than the target device) to create a location signature message. Jones fails to teach setting a time to return value to be less than a total of the propagation distance. Therefore, claim 5 is further believed to be allowable over Jones.

Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Girerd and Johnson in view of Hickman et. al (U.S. Patent No. 5,581,261, hereinafter "Hickman").

Hickman discloses, at column 2, lines 45-53 a microprocessor running a computer-implemented configuration process for configuring a digital equipment's communication processes based upon the equipment's current location. Hickman fails to teach location information services that provide location information to points along the path as a location request message travels through the location information services to its destination.

The examiner has therefore attempted to combine Girerd et al. with Johnson and with Hickman. However, this combination is inappropriate since Girerd relates to a method for a first system (a client) accessing a second system (a server) that, in turn, interrogates a remote sensor using an identification code provided to the client by a user. The remote sensor then transmits its positioning data to the server. Johnson discloses a technique of providing, via a telephone line, location information pertaining to a requestee (in the form of a map) to a requester, by selecting the map from an address book (i.e. a database of maps). Hickman discloses a method of reconfiguring a portable computer system, based on the location of that computer system. In order to properly combine references, there must be some basis or extrinsic factor that prompt one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the references to arrive at the claimed invention. There is no basis or factor to combine the teachings of a technique of providing, via a telephone line, location information pertaining to a requestee (in the form of a map) to a requester, by selecting the map from an address book (i.e. a database of maps) with a microprocessor running a computer-implemented configuration process for configuring a digital equipment's communication processes based upon the equipment's current location.

Further, even if one were to theoretically combine the three, the combination would still fail to disclose or suggest claims 9-10. Hickman fails to teach that nodes along the way from the source to the destination can access the

location information within the location message, as well as add to the location information contained within the location message.

Further still, the Girerd reference is classified in an International class having a main group and subgroup of 7/185 while Johnson is classified in an international class having a main group and subgroup of 11/00, and Hickman is classified in an international class having a main group and subgroup of 5/02. The three references are not related by subgroup or main group classification numbers, which is further indication that the references should not be combined.

Therefore, since the Girerd reference and the Johnson reference and the Hickman reference should not be combined, or even if they are combined, fail to disclose or suggest claim 9, claim 9 is believed allowable over them. Claim 10 is believed allowable as it depends from a base claim that is believed allowable.

Claim 16 is believed to be allowable since it depends from a base claim that is believed allowable.

Claims 30-35 contain similar language as Claims 1 and 14 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as Claims 1 and 14 discussed above.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over combinations of Girerd, Johnson, Jones, Hickman, and Collomby is believed to have been overcome.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's Representative at the number below.
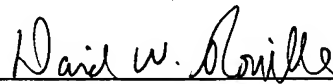
Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this

response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. <u>50-0901</u>.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

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